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Ministry of Education

GROUND BROKEN ON $25.3M FRANCOPHONE SECONDARY SCHOOL

VANCOUVER – Construction began today on Vancouver's first francophone secondary school following an official groundbreaking ceremony by Vancouver-Langara MLA Carole Taylor.

"There is a real appetite in our community for francophone educational programs, and I am so pleased to say today that the Province is responding," said Taylor. "This state of the art school will provide a new centre for learning in the Vancouver area, and also recreational facilities the whole community can use."

The total cost of the project is $25.3 million, with the federal government providing $4.5 million for francophone community enhancements.

The Conseil scolaire francophone's new Ecole secondaire francophone de Vancouver will have space for 350 students and will be built on the same site as Rose-des-Vents elementary school. The expanded school features a new central foyer, a 350-seat performing arts centre, a full-sized gymnasium and a multimedia facility.

"Enrolment may be dropping in many school districts, but there has been a steady increase in enrolment in B.C.'s francophone schools," said Education Minister Shirley Bond. "We're committed to offering our students more choice, and francophone education is another way we are doing that."

Construction is scheduled for completion in September 2008.

"This project will create a wonderful secondary school facility and a great place for francophone community and cultural events," said Conseil scolaire francophone (CSF) chair Marie Bourgeois.

The Province has invested $46.9 million in CSF school construction over the last five years, including $8.6 million for the new Gabrielle Roy elementary/secondary school in Surrey, $9 million for the new Andre Piolat elementary/secondary school in North Vancouver and $16.1 million for L'ecole Victor-Brodeur in Esquimalt.

Since 2001, government has spent $1 billion to complete 26 new schools, 32 replacements, 140 additions and 22 renovation projects across British Columbia. By the end of 2008-09, the Province will have invested more than $2.8 billion in school capital and maintenance projects in B.C.

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Media contact: Lara Perzoff
Public Affairs Bureau
Ministry of Education
250 356-5963
250 920-9040 (cell)

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